



February 5, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
House Government and Operations Committee
240-241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Ray Baker, Maryland Director, Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council
on HB850: Procurement - Public Works Contracts - Data Dashboard (Maryland Public Works and Apprenticeship Act)
Position: FAVORABLE**

Thank you Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB850.

My name is Ray Baker. I am the Maryland Director of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT). The BDCBT's 28 affiliates represent more than 30,000 union construction workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The BDCBT supports HB850. The bill would require the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to develop and maintain a data dashboard that lists information relating to the contractors, subcontractors, employees, and apprentices working on a public works contract. The information is to be publicly available on the Maryland Department of Labor website and updated on a regular basis.

Government bodies have been making great progress in providing transparency through information management tools like data dashboards. In an era where public trust in government institutions is hard-earned and easily lost, transparency stands out as an important tool for fostering accountability.

Producing a data dashboard for public works projects will promote transparency and accountability and help address issues like wage theft. HB850 would build on the existing data sets that the Maryland Department of Labor already provides related to prevailing wage.

The BDCBT urges the committee to issue a favorable report on HB850.

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